

Reports to Veterans

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Jane Harman
Congresswoman



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



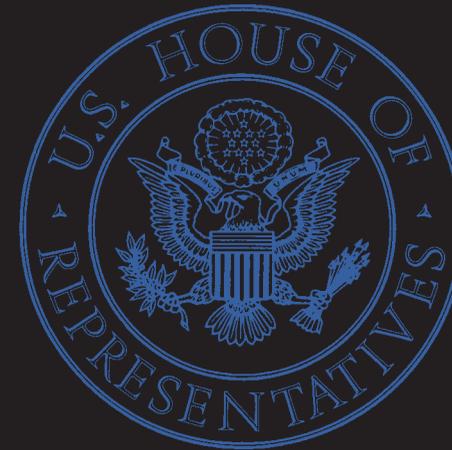
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CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN
Reports to Veterans



Rep. Harman, center, with veterans at a Wilmington VFW Post roundtable to discuss their opinions on current events.

“Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure whether they have it till the test comes.” ~ Carl Sandburg

Those words from the great American poet Carl Sandburg say a lot about the nature of courage and a lot about what it means to be a veteran, to have fought for one’s country. To experience the heat of combat is perhaps the ultimate test of valor – a test our fighting men and women now face every day in the war on terrorism, in the deserts of Iraq and the harsh terrain of Afghanistan.

We are a nation at war, and Congress and the American people have rallied behind our armed forces. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude for the risks they take on our behalf, but we own them much more than that. We owe them our support and respect upon their return from the battlefield.

It was Abraham Lincoln who reminded the country of its obligation “to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.” Regrettably, Congress is poised to forget those who bore the bat-



tle, the widow, the widower and the orphan.

To finance a huge and ill-timed tax cut, the House recently passed a budget resolution that calls for gutting the Veterans Affairs budget by \$15 billion in benefits and health care. It also calls for huge cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, two programs critical to the well being of many veterans and their spouses. The budget cuts also threaten veterans’ education benefits, vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs for service-disabled veterans.

This is wrong. It dishonors the men and women who bravely defended our freedom in prior conflicts or those now in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the war on terrorism. This is not the way to treat Torrance resident Bob

Brigham, a World War II veteran and former POW; or Brian Ward of San Pedro, a veteran of Vietnam and former POW. And this is not the way to honor the memory of Marine Lance Corporal Jose Gutierrez, from Lomita, who was killed in action in Iraq just a few weeks ago.

Honoring our veterans is a life-long commitment, beginning with the warm welcome upon their return from war. It continues when we fly the POW-MIA flag, when we care for our veterans and their families and, ultimately, when we lay them to rest with appropriate remembrance and tribute.

Deeds must match words. I opposed the budget passed by the House of Representatives on March 21, 2003, because it funded misguided tax cuts and failed to include funding for valued veterans programs. To honor these extraordinary heroes, our deeds must fund their care.

Janet Harman



National POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Torrance Main Post Office. Rep. Harman meets with veterans after assisting in the raising of a commemorative POW/MIA flag that she and State Assemblyman George Nakano had presented to the local Postmaster.

Welcoming Home America’s Troops

Before long, troops involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom will begin coming home. I have introduced a Congressional Resolution (H.Con.Res. 152), along with Congressman Duke Cunningham (R-50-CA), expressing appreciation for members of the Armed Forces involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and encouraging communities to welcome them home. I encourage every American, regardless of their views on this conflict, to welcome these heroes home.

Help With Compensation & Pension Claims

Each month, my offices assist many local veterans having problems with their compensation and pension claims as well as other government benefit programs. My staff in Wilmington and El Segundo specialize in working with the Department of Veterans Affairs regional offices and VA Healthcare System to make them responsive to my constituents.

Wilmington – (310) 549 8282

El Segundo – (310) 643 3636

<http://www.house.gov/harman/casework/veterans.html>

Keeping In Touch

Iam honored to have been invited to participate in the American Legion Department of California’s 85th Convention in Riverside on Saturday, June 21st. My participation in this event will give me an opportunity to discuss the issues of importance to the veterans in my district.

Honoring Our Flag



Since I first came to Congress, I have been proud to support bipartisan efforts to amend the Constitution to protect the American flag from desecration. As the universal symbol of our national heritage, the flag serves as an important link between Americans and their history. During times of both war and peace, it can be found in storefront windows, school yards, atop Capitol domes and even aboard spacecraft. I am proud to have had legislation passed that requires the POW-MIA flag to fly over federal buildings on designated days.